

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. VM7031422003
Varian No. 03-010US

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 36, 44, 61, 63, and 65, and amend claims 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 35, 40, and 43, as follows. A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing a image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
8. (Previously Presented) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:
means for collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;
means for determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;
means for collecting a third x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
means for enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for adjusting comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.

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12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:
collecting ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images;
determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;
collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;
wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the collecting the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images comprises generating the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images in a sequence.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
25. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an image, comprising:
means for collecting ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images;
means for determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;
means for collecting an input x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
means for enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.

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26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.
27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:
collecting ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images;
determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;
collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;
wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images.
29. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the collecting the ~~one two~~ or more images comprises generating the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images in a sequence.
30. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
31. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.

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32. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
33. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
34. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
35. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:
obtaining a first x-ray image;
obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are obtained using x-ray radiation having a same energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray images;
wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.
39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.

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40. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:
 means for obtaining a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image in a sequence;
~~wherein the means for obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second~~
~~x-ray images are obtained using~~ uses x-ray radiation having a same energy level to obtain the
first and the second x-ray images, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a
 portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
 means for determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first x-ray
 image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image.
41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for determining a composite image
 comprises means for subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion
 of the second x-ray image.
42. (Original) The system of claim 40, further comprising means for determining a value
 associated with a contrast of the composite image.
43. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions,
 the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:
 obtaining a first x-ray image;
 obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are
 obtained using x-ray radiation having a same energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray
 image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an
 object; and
 determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray
 images;
wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
44. (Canceled)

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45. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

46. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.

47. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the process further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for obtaining the first x-ray image and the means for obtaining the second x-ray image comprises an imaging device

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that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the third x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for generating the first and the second x-ray images using x-ray having a same energy level.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the process further comprises generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

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61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the input x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

65. (Canceled)